

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Lithuania)

SUBJECT Health and Sanitation Data (Kaunas)

PLACE
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DATE OF INFORMATION 25X1X

1. Q: With what other cities was direct transportation maintained from Kaunas?

- A: a. by water, with Klaipeda (Memel);
b. by rail, with Vilnius, Siauliai, Riga and Klaipeda;
c. by air, with Berlin and Moscow.

2. Q: What were the five leading causes of death?

- A: a. tuberculosis
b. pneumonia
c. cancer
d. heart disease
e. purulent infections

3. Q: What diseases are locally regarded as endemic?

A: In descending order of importance: typhoid, scarlet fever and diphtheria.

4. Q: Describe the public water supply system.

A: The city has its own water supply which is based on a system of special wells. These are under strict sanitary control. The system was adequate in 1944 to furnish water for the whole population of Kaunas. Because of its high price, bottled water was not used extensively.

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5. The Health Department in 1944 exercised control over the following:
- slaughtering;
 - handling of meats;
 - fish;
 - markets.
6. Q: How is cows' milk distributed?
- A: Pasteurized in bottles. The sanitary quality of the milk in 1940 was controlled by the Department of Public Health.
7. Q: Has the city an operating sanitary sewerage system?
- A: Yes
8. Q: What part of the whole population is served by it?
- A: In 1944 about 3/4.
9. Q: Where there is no such system, what is the most common method used for the disposal of human excreta?
- A: Special transportation to open fields far from the city.
10. Q: What is the ultimate disposal of sewerage?
- A: The River Nemunas.
11. Q: Are human excreta used for fertilizing land?
- A: Yes
12. Q: Are vegetables grown locally on such lands?
- A: Yes
13. Q: Is there a drainage system adequate to carry surface runoff?
- A: Yes
14. Q: Are there any places near the city where surface water collects and stands in heavy rain?
- A: Very few.
15. Q: Was there a general collection of garbage?
- A: No.
16. Q: Was other refuse collected?
- A: No.
17. Q: What ultimate disposal was made of garbage and other refuse?
- A: Pits
18. Q: What method is used for the disposal of the dead?
- A: Burial. Cremation was not used.

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19. Q: What pests are controlled by the Health Department?
A: In 1940; flies, lice, rodents and fleas.
20. There were in 1944 about nine hospitals in Kaunas, having a total bed capacity of about 2,500. Of these approximately 700 were charity beds. Medical, surgical, dental, nursing and obstetrical services were available. Common drugs were easily available in 1940.
21. Governmental agencies controlled the following in 1940: tuberculosis; venereal disease; sanitation; maternity, infant and child health.
22. Q: Were cases of communicable diseases reported?
A: Yes in 1944.
23. Q: What immunization procedures are applied to children?
A: Compulsory immunization against smallpox in 1940.
24. Q: What immunization procedures are applied to the general public?
A: Typhoid, dysentery, scarlet fever, diphtheria in 1940. All of these were voluntary.
25. Q: What is your personal opinion as to the general conditions listed below?
A: Health conditions - fair
Sanitation - fair
Medical, dental and hospital care - good
Climatic effect on children, women and men - fair.
26. Q: Describe briefly the facilities of the recognized colleges and universities which are available throughout the country.
A: There were in 1944 universities in Kaunas and Vilnius with faculties of medicine, science, mathematics, humanities, theology and veterinary medicine. There was an agricultural faculty located in Patnuva. In the medical school the quality of training was fair as were the teaching facilities. Medical research and development was poor.

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